

The Washington Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Washington Times A-6
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The Christian Science Monitor _____
 New York Daily News _____
 USA Today _____
 The Chicago Tribune _____

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A cloak in his past?

Did Vice President George Bush, the Resume Candidate, fail to note his stint as a rank-and-file spook in the early 1960s? "We certainly confirm that he worked for the CIA when he was director," said CIA spokesman Bill Devine, refusing to confirm or deny a report that the veep was in fact on the agency's payroll more than a decade before taking over as director in 1975.

According to the current issue of the left-wing Nation magazine, a "Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency" is cited in a recently unearthed 1963 FBI memorandum, authored by then-director J. Edgar Hoover.

Nonsense, Mr. Bush said through a spokesman about the report.

However, the Nation article notes that Mr. Bush wrote in his 1987 autobiography, "Looking Forward," that "I'd come to the CIA with some general knowledge of how it operated." The article also speculates that Mr. Bush's reference in the book to his many "overseas contacts as a businessman" might be veiled references to previous CIA experience.

At the time, Mr. Bush was running the Houston-based Zapata Off-Shore Co., which gave him an opportunity for overseas travel, including trips throughout the Caribbean. "I know he was involved in the Caribbean. I know he was involved in the suppression of things after the Kennedy assassination," said a source identified by The Nation as someone "with close connections to the intelligence community."

Both the CIA spokesman and Stephen Hart, a spokesman for the vice president, refused to speculate on the possibility of someone else named George Bush working for the agency. "There's nothing to this," Mr. Hart said.